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PROSPECTIVE JUROR: MY NAME IS [REDACTED]

I LIVE IN SAN DIEGO IN THE MISSION HILLS AREA. I'M RETIRED.  
I WAS A CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER. I'M SINGLE. NO CHILDREN.  
I'VE BEEN CALLED FOR JURY SERVICE A NUMBER OF TIMES, BUT I'VE  
NEVER ACTUALLY BEEN SELECTED AS A JUROR. CAN I BE FAIR? I'LL  
TRY. BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE WORK THAT I DID, I HAVE  
SOME FAIRLY STRONG OPINIONS ABOUT SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO COME  
INTO THE LEGAL SYSTEM. BUT I WOULD TRY TO WORK WITH THAT.

THE COURT: WE'RE ALL PRODUCTS OF OUR EXPERIENCE.  
WE'RE NOT GOING TO TRY TO DISABUSE YOU OF EXPERIENCES OR  
JUDGMENTS THAT YOU HAVE. WHAT WE ASK IS THAT YOU NOT ALLOW  
THOSE TO CONTROL INVARIABLY THE OUTCOME OF THE CASES COMING IN  
FRONT OF YOU; THAT YOU LOOK AT THE CASES FRESH, YOU EVALUATE  
THE CIRCUMSTANCES, LISTEN TO THE WITNESS TESTIMONY, AND THEN  
MAKE AN INDEPENDENT JUDGMENT.

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO THAT?

1 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I'LL DO MY BEST.

2 THE COURT: IS THERE A CERTAIN CATEGORY OF CASE THAT  
3 YOU THINK MIGHT BE TROUBLESOME FOR YOU TO SIT ON THAT YOU'D BE  
4 INSTINCTIVELY TILTING ONE WAY IN FAVOR OF INDICTMENT OR THE  
5 OTHER WAY AGAINST INDICTING JUST BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE  
6 CASE?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: WELL, I HAVE SOME FAIRLY STRONG  
8 FEELINGS REGARDING DRUG CASES. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY  
9 DRUGS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ILLEGAL, AND I THINK WE'RE SPENDING  
10 A LOT OF TIME AND ENERGY PERSECUTING AND PROSECUTING CASES  
11 WHERE RESOURCES SHOULD BE DIRECTED IN OTHER AREAS.

12 I ALSO HAVE STRONG FEELINGS ABOUT IMMIGRATION CASES.  
13 AGAIN, I THINK WE'RE SPENDING A LOT OF TIME PERSECUTING PEOPLE  
14 THAT WE SHOULD NOT BE.

15 THE COURT: WELL, LET ME TELL YOU, YOU'VE HIT ON THE  
16 TWO TYPES OF CASES THAT ARE REALLY KIND OF THE STAPLE OF THE  
17 WORK WE DO HERE IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA. AS I  
18 MENTIONED IN MY INITIAL REMARKS, OUR PROXIMITY TO THE BORDER  
19 KIND OF MAKES US A FUNNEL FOR BOTH DRUG CASES AND IMMIGRATION  
20 CASES. YOU'RE GOING TO BE HEARING THOSE CASES I CAN TELL YOU  
21 FOR SURE. JUST AS DAY FOLLOWS NIGHT, YOU'RE HEAR CASES LIKE  
22 THAT.

23 NOW, THE QUESTION IS CAN YOU FAIRLY EVALUATE THOSE  
24 CASES? JUST AS THE DEFENDANT ULTIMATELY IS ENTITLED TO A FAIR  
25 TRIAL AND THE PERSON THAT'S ACCUSED IS ENTITLED TO A FAIR

1 APPRAISAL OF THE EVIDENCE OF THE CASE THAT'S IN FRONT OF YOU,  
2 SO, TOO, IS THE UNITED STATES ENTITLED TO A FAIR JUDGMENT. IF  
3 THERE'S PROBABLE CAUSE, THEN THE CASE SHOULD GO FORWARD. I  
4 WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO SAY, "WELL, YEAH, THERE'S PROBABLE CAUSE.  
5 BUT I STILL DON'T LIKE WHAT OUR GOVERNMENT IS DOING. I  
6 DISAGREE WITH THESE LAWS, SO I'M NOT GOING TO VOTE FOR IT TO  
7 GO FORWARD." IF THAT'S YOUR FRAME OF MIND, THEN PROBABLY YOU  
8 SHOULDN'T SERVE. ONLY YOU CAN TELL ME THAT.

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: WELL, I THINK I MAY FALL IN THAT  
10 CATEGORY.

11 THE COURT: IN THE LATTER CATEGORY?

12 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: YES.

13 THE COURT: WHERE IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO  
14 SUPPORT A CHARGE EVEN IF YOU THOUGHT THE EVIDENCE WARRANTED  
15 IT?

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: YES.

17 THE COURT: I'M GOING TO EXCUSE YOU, THEN. I  
18 APPRECIATE YOUR HONEST ANSWERS.  
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PROSPECTIVE JUROR: MAY NAME IS [REDACTED] I  
LIVE IN SAN DIEGO. I'M A REAL ESTATE AGENT. NOT MARRIED. NO  
KIDS. HAVE NOT SERVED. AND AS FAR AS BEING FAIR, IT KIND OF  
DEPENDS UPON WHAT THE CASE IS ABOUT BECAUSE THERE IS A  
DISPARITY BETWEEN STATE AND FEDERAL LAW.

THE COURT: IN WHAT REGARD?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: SPECIFICALLY, MEDICAL  
MARIJUANA.

THE COURT: WELL, THOSE THINGS -- THE CONSEQUENCES  
OF YOUR DETERMINATION SHOULDN'T CONCERN YOU IN THE SENSE THAT  
PENALTIES OR PUNISHMENT, THINGS LIKE THAT -- WE TELL TRIAL  
JURORS, OF COURSE, THAT THEY CANNOT CONSIDER THE PUNISHMENT OR

1 THE CONSEQUENCE THAT CONGRESS HAS SET FOR THESE THINGS. WE'D  
2 ASK YOU TO ALSO ABIDE BY THAT. WE WANT YOU TO MAKE A  
3 BUSINESS-LIKE DECISION AND LOOK AT THE FACTS AND MAKE A  
4 DETERMINATION OF WHETHER THERE WAS A PROBABLE CAUSE.

5 COULD YOU DO THAT? COULD YOU PUT ASIDE STRONG  
6 PERSONAL FEELINGS YOU MAY HAVE?

7 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: IT DEPENDS. I HAVE A VERY  
8 STRONG OPINION ON IT. WE LIVE IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, NOT  
9 FEDERAL CALIFORNIA. THAT'S HOW I FEEL ABOUT IT VERY STRONGLY.

10 THE COURT: WELL, I DON'T KNOW HOW OFTEN MEDICAL  
11 MARIJUANA USE CASES COME UP HERE. I DON'T HAVE A GOOD FEEL  
12 FOR THAT. MY INSTINCT IS THEY PROBABLY DON'T ARISE VERY  
13 OFTEN. BUT I SUPPOSE ONE OF THE SOLUTIONS WOULD BE IN A CASE  
14 IMPLICATING MEDICAL USE OF MARIJUANA, YOU COULD RECUSE  
15 YOURSELF FROM THAT CASE.

16 ARE YOU WILLING TO DO THAT?

17 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: SURE.

18 THE COURT: ALL OTHER CATEGORIES OF CASES YOU COULD  
19 GIVE A FAIR, CONSCIENTIOUS JUDGMENT ON?

20 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: FOR THE MOST PART, BUT I ALSO  
21 FEEL THAT DRUGS SHOULD BE LEGAL.

22 THE COURT: OUR LAWS ARE DIFFERENT FROM THAT. AND  
23 AS YOU HEARD ME EXPLAIN TO [REDACTED], A LOT OF THE CASES  
24 THAT COME THROUGH IN OUR COURT ARE DRUG CASES. YOU'LL BE  
25 CALLED UPON TO EVALUATE THOSE CASES OBJECTIVELY AND THEN MAKE



1 THE TWO DETERMINATIONS THAT I STARTED OFF EXPLAINING TO  
2 [REDACTED] "DO I HAVE A REASONABLE BELIEF THAT A CRIME WAS  
3 COMMITTED? WHETHER I AGREE WITH WHETHER IT OUGHT TO BE A  
4 CRIME OR NOT, DO I BELIEVE THAT A CRIME WAS COMMITTED AND THAT  
5 THE PERSON THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS ASKING ME TO INDICT WAS  
6 SOMEHOW INVOLVED IN THIS CRIME, EITHER COMMITTED IT OR HELPED  
7 WITH IT?"

8 COULD YOU DO THAT IF YOU SIT AS A GRAND JUROR?

9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: THE LAST JURY I WAS ASKED TO SIT  
10 ON, I GOT EXCUSED BECAUSE OF THAT REASON.

11 THE COURT: YOU SAID YOU COULDN'T DO IT? YOUR  
12 SENTIMENTS ARE SO STRONG THAT THEY WOULD IMPAIR YOUR  
13 OBJECTIVITY ABOUT DRUG CASES?

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I THINK RAPISTS AND MURDERERS  
15 OUGHT TO GO TO JAIL, NOT PEOPLE USING DRUGS.

16 THE COURT: I THINK RAPISTS AND MURDERERS OUGHT TO  
17 GO TO JAIL, TOO. IT'S NOT FOR ME AS A JUDGE TO SAY WHAT THE  
18 LAW IS. WE ELECT LEGISLATORS TO DO THAT. WE'RE SORT OF AT  
19 THE END OF THE PIPE ON THAT. WE'RE CHARGED WITH ENFORCING THE  
20 LAWS THAT CONGRESS GIVES US.

21 I CAN TELL YOU SOMETIMES I DON'T AGREE WITH SOME OF  
22 THE LEGAL DECISIONS THAT ARE INDICATED THAT I HAVE TO MAKE.  
23 BUT MY ALTERNATIVE IS TO VOTE FOR SOMEONE DIFFERENT, VOTE FOR  
24 SOMEONE THAT SUPPORTS THE POLICIES I SUPPORT AND GET THE LAW  
25 CHANGED. IT'S NOT FOR ME TO SAY, "WELL, I DON'T LIKE IT. SO

1 I'M NOT GOING TO FOLLOW IT HERE."

2 YOU'D HAVE A SIMILAR OBLIGATION AS A GRAND JUROR  
3 EVEN THOUGH YOU MIGHT HAVE TO GRIT YOUR TEETH ON SOME CASES.  
4 PHILOSOPHICALLY, IF YOU WERE A MEMBER OF CONGRESS, YOU'D VOTE  
5 AGAINST, FOR EXAMPLE, CRIMINALIZING MARIJUANA. I DON'T KNOW  
6 IF THAT'S IT, BUT YOU'D VOTE AGAINST CRIMINALIZING SOME DRUGS.

7 THAT'S NOT WHAT YOUR PREROGATIVE IS HERE. YOUR  
8 PREROGATIVE INSTEAD IS TO ACT LIKE A JUDGE AND TO SAY, "ALL  
9 RIGHT. THIS IS WHAT I'VE GOT TO DEAL WITH OBJECTIVELY. DOES  
10 IT SEEM TO ME THAT A CRIME WAS COMMITTED? YES. DOES IT SEEM  
11 TO ME THAT THIS PERSON'S INVOLVED? IT DOES." AND THEN YOUR  
12 OBLIGATION, IF YOU FIND THOSE THINGS TO BE TRUE, WOULD BE TO  
13 VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE CASE GOING FORWARD.

14 I CAN UNDERSTAND IF YOU TELL ME "LOOK, I GET ALL  
15 THAT, BUT I JUST CAN'T DO IT OR I WOULDN'T DO IT." I DON'T  
16 KNOW WHAT YOUR FRAME OF MIND IS. YOU HAVE TO TELL ME ABOUT  
17 THAT.

18 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I'M NOT COMFORTABLE WITH IT.

19 THE COURT: DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE INCLINED TO LET  
20 PEOPLE GO ON DRUG CASES EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE CONVINCED THERE  
21 WAS PROBABLE CAUSE THEY COMMITTED A DRUG OFFENSE?

22 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: IT WOULD DEPEND UPON THE CASE.

23 THE COURT: IS THERE A CHANCE THAT YOU WOULD DO  
24 THAT?

25 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: YES.

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THE COURT: I APPRECIATE YOUR ANSWERS. I'LL EXCUSE  
YOU AT THIS TIME.



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9 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I'M [REDACTED] I LIVE IN  
10 ENCINITAS. I WORK FOR AN INSURANCE COMPANY HERE IN SAN DIEGO.  
11 I'M MARRIED. MY WIFE IS A P.E. TEACHER AT A MIDDLE SCHOOL. I  
12 HAVE TWO KIDS AGE 14 AND 16. I'VE BEEN A JUROR BEFORE  
13 PROBABLY TEN YEARS AGO ON KIND OF A LOW-LEVEL CRIMINAL CASE.  
14 AND IN THE NAME OF FULL DISCLOSURE, I'D PROBABLY SUGGEST I'D  
15 BE THE FLIPSIDE OF SOME OF THE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE CONVEYED  
16 THEIR CONCERNS PREVIOUSLY. I HAVE A STRONG BIAS FOR THE U.S.  
17 ATTORNEY, WHATEVER CASES THEY MIGHT BRING. I DON'T THINK  
18 THEY'RE HERE TO WASTE OUR TIME, THE COURT'S TIME, THEIR OWN  
19 TIME. I APPRECIATE THE EVIDENTIARY STANDARDS, I GUESS, MORE  
20 OR LESS, AS A LAYPERSON WOULD; THAT THEY ARE CALLED UPON IN  
21 ORDER TO BRING THESE CASES OR SEEK AN INDICTMENT.

22 AND THE GATEKEEPER ROLE THAT I GUESS WE'RE BEING  
23 ASKED TO PLAY IS ONE THAT I'D HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME, IN ALL  
24 HONESTY. I'M PROBABLY SUGGESTING THAT THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S  
25 CASE WOULD BE ONE THAT I WOULD BE WILLING TO STAND IN FRONT

1 OF; IN OTHER WORDS, PREVENT FROM GOING TO A JURY.

2 THE COURT: IT SOMETIMES HAPPENS THAT AT THE TIME  
3 THE CASE IS INITIALLY PRESENTED TO THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE,  
4 THINGS APPEAR DIFFERENTLY THAN 10 DAYS LATER, 20 DAYS LATER  
5 WHEN IT'S PRESENTED TO A GRAND JURY. THAT'S WHY THIS  
6 GATEKEEPER ROLE IS VERY, VERY IMPORTANT.

7 YOU'RE NOT PART OF THE PROSECUTING ARM. YOU'RE  
8 INTENDED TO BE A BUFFER INDEPENDENT OF THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S  
9 OFFICE. AND THE REAL ROLE OF THE GRAND JURY IS TO MAKE SURE  
10 THAT UNSUBSTANTIATED CHARGES DON'T GO FORWARD.

11 YOU'VE HEARD MY GENERAL COMMENTS. YOU HAVE AN  
12 APPRECIATION ABOUT HOW AN UNSUBSTANTIATED CHARGE COULD CAUSE  
13 PROBLEMS FOR SOMEONE EVEN IF THEY'RE ULTIMATELY ACQUITTED.

14 YOU APPRECIATE THAT; RIGHT?

15 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I THINK I COULD APPRECIATE THAT,  
16 YES.

17 THE COURT: AND SO WE'RE -- LOOK, I'LL BE HONEST  
18 WITH YOU. THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE CHARGES THAT THE GRAND  
19 JURY PASSES ON THAT ARE PRESENTED BY THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S  
20 OFFICE DO GO FORWARD. MOST OF THE TIME, THE GRAND JURY PUTS  
21 ITS SEAL OF APPROVAL ON THE INITIAL DECISION MADE BY THE U.S.  
22 ATTORNEY.

23 OBVIOUSLY, I WOULD SCREEN SOMEBODY OUT WHO SAYS, "I  
24 DON'T CARE ABOUT THE EVIDENCE. I'M NOT GOING TO PAY ATTENTION  
25 TO THE EVIDENCE. IF THE U.S. ATTORNEY SAYS IT'S GOOD, I'M

1 GOING TO GO WITH THAT." IT DIDN'T SOUND LIKE THAT'S WHAT YOU  
2 WERE SAYING. YOU WERE SAYING YOU GIVE A PRESUMPTION OF GOOD  
3 FAITH TO THE U.S. ATTORNEY AND ASSUME, QUITE LOGICALLY, THAT  
4 THEY'RE NOT ABOUT THE BUSINESS OF TRYING TO INDICT INNOCENT  
5 PEOPLE OR PEOPLE THAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE INNOCENT OR THE  
6 EVIDENCE DOESN'T SUBSTANTIATE THE CHARGES AGAINST. THAT'S  
7 WELL AND GOOD.

8 YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT AS A MEMBER OF THE GRAND  
9 JURY, YOU'RE THE ULTIMATE ARBITER. THEY DON'T HAVE THE  
10 AUTHORITY TO HAVE A CASE GO FORWARD WITHOUT YOU AND FELLOW  
11 GRAND JURORS' APPROVAL. I WOULD WANT YOU NOT TO JUST  
12 AUTOMATICALLY DEFER TO THEM OR SURRENDER THE FUNCTION AND  
13 GIVER THE INDICTMENT DECISION TO THE U.S. ATTORNEY. YOU HAVE  
14 TO MAKE THAT INDEPENDENTLY.

15 YOU'RE WILLING TO DO THAT IF YOU'RE RETAINED HERE?

16 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I'M NOT A PERSON THAT THINKS OF  
17 ANYBODY IN THE BACK OF A POLICE CAR AS NECESSARILY GUILTY, AND  
18 I WOULD DO MY BEST TO GO AHEAD AND BE OBJECTIVE. BUT AGAIN,  
19 JUST IN THE NAME OF FULL DISCLOSURE, I FELT LIKE I SHOULD LET  
20 YOU KNOW THAT I HAVE A VERY STRONG PRESUMPTION WITH RESPECT TO  
21 ANY DEFENDANT THAT WOULD BE BROUGHT IN FRONT OF US.

22 THE COURT: I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING. LET ME  
23 TELL YOU THE PROCESS WILL WORK MECHANICALLY. THEY'RE GOING TO  
24 CALL WITNESSES. AND WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO ASK YOU TO DO IS  
25 EVALUATE THE TESTIMONY YOU HEAR FROM WITNESSES.

1           BEFORE YOU REACH A POINT WHERE YOU VOTE ON ANY  
2   INDICTMENT, THE U.S. ATTORNEY AND THE STENOGRAPHER LEAVE. THE  
3   ONLY PEOPLE LEFT WHEN THE VOTE IS TAKEN ARE THE GRAND JURORS  
4   THEMSELVES. THAT'S THE WAY THE PROCESS IS GOING TO WORK.

5           YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SAY EITHER "WELL, IT HAS THE  
6   RING OF TRUTH TO ME, AND I THINK IT HAPPENED THE WAY IT'S  
7   BEING SUGGESTED HERE. AT LEAST I'M CONVINCED ENOUGH TO LET  
8   THE CASE GO FORWARD" OR "THINGS JUST DON'T HAPPEN LIKE THAT IN  
9   MY EXPERIENCE, AND I THINK THIS SOUNDS CRAZY TO ME. I WANT  
10   EITHER MORE EVIDENCE OR I'M NOT CONVINCED BY WHAT'S BEEN  
11   PRESENTED AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET IT GO FORWARD."

12           CAN YOU MAKE AN OBJECTIVE ON FACTS LIKE THE ONES  
13   I'VE JUST DESCRIBED?

14           PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I WOULD DO MY BEST TO DO THAT.  
15   I CERTAINLY WOULD WANT ME SITTING ON A GRAND JURY IF I WERE A  
16   DEFENDANT COMING BEFORE THIS GRAND JURY. HAVING SAID THAT, I  
17   WOULD DO MY BEST. I HAVE TO ADMIT TO A STRONG BIAS IN FAVOR  
18   OF THE U.S. ATTORNEY THAT I'M NOT SURE I COULD OVERCOME.

19           THE COURT: ALL I'M TRYING TO GET AT IS WHETHER  
20   YOU'RE GOING TO AUTOMATICALLY VOTE TO INDICT IRRESPECTIVE OF  
21   THE FACTS.

22           A FEW YEARS AGO, I IMPANELED A FELLOW HERE THAT WAS  
23   A SERGEANT ON THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT. AND YEARS AGO WHEN I  
24   WAS A PROSECUTOR, I WORKED WITH HIM. HE WAS ALL ABOUT  
25   ARRESTING AND PROSECUTING PEOPLE. BUT WHEN HE GOT HERE, HE



1 SAID, "LOOK, I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS A DIFFERENT FUNCTION.  
2 I CAN PERFORM THAT FUNCTION." HE SERVED FAITHFULLY AND WELL  
3 FOR A NUMBER OF -- OVER A YEAR, I THINK. 18 MONTHS, MAYBE.  
4 HE EVENTUALLY GOT A PROMOTION, SO WE RELIEVED HIM FROM THE  
5 GRAND JURY SERVICE.

6 BUT, YOU KNOW, HE TOOK OFF ONE HAT AND ONE UNIFORM  
7 AND PUT ON A DIFFERENT HAT ON THE DAYS HE REPORTED TO THE  
8 GRAND JURY. HE WAS A POLICEMAN. HE'D BEEN INVOLVED IN  
9 PROSECUTING CASES. BUT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE FUNCTION HE WAS  
10 PERFORMING HERE WAS DIFFERENT, THAT IT REQUIRED HIM TO  
11 INDEPENDENTLY AND OBJECTIVELY ANALYZE CASES AND ASSURED ME  
12 THAT HE COULD DO THAT, THAT HE WOULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY VOTE TO  
13 INDICT JUST BECAUSE THE U.S. ATTORNEY SAID SO.

14 AGAIN, I DON'T WANT TO PUT WORDS IN YOUR MOUTH. BUT  
15 I DON'T HEAR YOU SAYING THAT THAT'S THE EXTREME POSITION THAT  
16 YOU HAVE. I HEAR YOU SAYING INSTEAD THAT COMMON SENSE AND  
17 YOUR EXPERIENCE TELLS YOU THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S NOT GOING TO  
18 WASTE TIME ON CASES THAT LACK MERIT. THE CONSCIENTIOUS PEOPLE  
19 WHO WORK FOR THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AREN'T GOING TO TRY TO  
20 TRUMP UP PHONY CHARGES AGAINST PEOPLE.

21 MY ANECDOTAL EXPERIENCE SUPPORTS THAT, TOO. THAT  
22 DOESN'T MEAN THAT EVERY CASE THAT COMES IN FRONT OF ME I SAY,  
23 "WELL, THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S ON THIS. THE PERSON MUST BE  
24 GUILTY." I CAN'T DO THAT. I LOOK AT THE CASES STAND-ALONE,  
25 INDEPENDENT, AND I EVALUATE THE FACTS. I DO WHAT I'M CHARGED



1 WITH DOING, WHICH IS MAKING A DECISION BASED ON THE EVIDENCE  
2 THAT'S PRESENTED.

3 SO THAT'S THE QUESTION I HAVE FOR YOU. I CAN  
4 UNDERSTAND THE DEFERENCE TO THE U.S. ATTORNEY. AND FRANKLY, I  
5 AGREE WITH THE THINGS THAT YOU'RE SAYING. THEY MAKE SENSE TO  
6 ME. BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY, YOUR OBLIGATION IS STILL TO  
7 LOOK AT THESE CASES INDEPENDENTLY AND FORM AN INDEPENDENT  
8 CONSCIENTIOUS BUSINESS-LIKE JUDGMENT ON THE TWO QUESTIONS THAT  
9 I'VE MENTIONED EARLIER: DO I HAVE A REASONABLE BELIEF THAT A  
10 CRIME WAS COMMITTED? DO I HAVE A REASONABLE BELIEF THAT THE  
11 PERSON TO BE CHARGED COMMITTED IT OR HELPED COMMIT IT?

12 CAN YOU DO THAT?

13 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: AGAIN, I WOULD DO MY BEST TO DO  
14 THAT. BUT I DO BRING A VERY, VERY STRONG BIAS. I BELIEVE  
15 THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, THE U.S. ATTORNEY WOULD HAVE OTHER FACTS  
16 THAT WOULD RISE TO LEVEL THAT THEY'D BE ABLE TO PRESENT TO US  
17 THAT WOULD BEAR ON THE TRIAL. I WOULD LOOK AT THE CASE AND  
18 PRESUME AND BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE OTHER FACTS OUT THERE THAT  
19 AREN'T PRESENTED TO US THAT WOULD ALSO BEAR ON TAKING THE CASE  
20 TO TRIAL. I'D HAVE A VERY DIFFICULT TIME.

21 THE COURT: YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO THAT. WE  
22 WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO SPECULATE THAT THERE'S OTHER FACTS THAT  
23 HAVEN'T BEEN PRESENTED TO YOU. YOU HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION  
24 BASED ON WHAT'S BEEN PRESENTED.

25 BUT LOOK, I CAN TELL YOU I IMAGINE THERE'S PEOPLE IN

1 THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE THAT DISAGREE WITH ONE ANOTHER  
2 ABOUT THE MERITORIOUSNESS OF A CASE OR WHETHER A CASE CAN BE  
3 WON AT A JURY TRIAL.

4 IS THAT RIGHT, MR. ROBINSON?

5 MR. ROBINSON: ON OCCASION, YOUR HONOR. NOT VERY  
6 OFTEN.

7 THE COURT: IT COMES UP EVEN IN AN OFFICE WITH  
8 PEOPLE CHARGED WITH THE SAME FUNCTION. I DON'T WANT TO BEAT  
9 YOU UP ON THIS, [REDACTED] I'M EQUALLY CONCERNED WITH  
10 SOMEBODY WHO WOULD SAY, "I'M GOING TO AUTOMATICALLY DROP THE  
11 TRAP DOOR ON ANYBODY THE U.S ATTORNEY ASKS." I WOULDN'T WANT  
12 YOU TO DO THAT. IF YOU THINK THERE'S A POSSIBILITY YOU'LL DO  
13 THAT, THEN I'D BE INCLINED TO EXCUSE YOU.

14 PROSPECTIVE JUROR: I THINK THAT THERE'S A  
15 POSSIBILITY I WOULD BE INCLINED TO DO THAT.

16 THE COURT: I'M GOING TO EXCUSE YOU, THEN. THANK  
17 YOU. I APPRECIATE YOUR ANSWERS.